

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

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ROME FOR FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, UNWFC

SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD COUNCIL FOURTH SESSION

REF: ROME 9386

1. MISSION REQUESTED TO TRANSMIT TO WFC SECRETARIAT THE
FOLLOWING SUGGESTED REVISIONS IN WFC DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS
PROVIDED REFTEL (NOTE: DELETIONS ARE SIGNIFIED BY THEIR
INCLUSION IN PARENTHESES):

"WE, THE MINISTERS AND PLENIPOTENTIARIES OF WFC, ...
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE CONFER-
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ENCE CREATED WFC WITH A MANDATE (TO IMPLEMENT THE RESOLU-
TIONS OF THE CONFERENCE AND) RECOMMEND APPROPRIATE ACTION

...

- THE NUMBER OF (MALNOURISHED PEOPLE) PERSONS WITH FOOD
INTAKE BELOW THE CRITICAL MINIMUM LEVEL AS DEFINED BY FAO
HAS GROWN FROM ... (IT SEEMS TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH INADE-
QUATE RESOURCE COMMITMENTS FOR FOOD PRODUCTION AND

NUTRITION IMPROVEMENT IN FOOD PRIORITY COUNTRIES.) THE COMMITMENT OF DOMESTIC RESOURCES TO FOOD AND NUTRITION EFFORTS BY FOOD PRIORITY COUNTRIES THEMSELVES ALSO REMAINS LESS THAN WHAT IS NEEDED.

-. . . FOOD SECURITY HAS THUS NOT BEEN ESTABLISHED (WHILE

EFFORTS TO REDUCE FOOD PRODUCTION ARE ALREADY UNDERWAY.)...

1. FOOD PRODUCTION AND EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE . . . WITHOUT A HIGHER PRIORITY FOR FOOD IN DECISIONMAKING AND RESOURCE ALLOCATION BY GOVERNMENTS OF THESE COUNTRIES AND (LARGER, BETTER DIRECTED AND MORE EASILY AVAILABLE ASSISTANCE) SUBSTANTIALLY ENLARGED COMMITMENTS OF HIGHLY CONCESSIONAL AND OTHER RESOURCES FROM DONOR COUNTRIES AND MULTILATERAL INSTITUTIONS ...

THE COUNCIL THEREFORE RECOMMENDS:

(A) THAT THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES CONSIDER ON AN URGENT BASIS (IN THE DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE):

(1) HOW (BILATERAL AGENCIES) DONOR GOVERNMENTS CAN DEVELOP AND SUSTAIN HIGH PRIORITY FOR FOOD AND NUTRITION ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES MOST IN NEED, AND(LINK THIS TO MEASURES WHICH WOULD) ENSURE THAT THIS HIGH PRIORITY IS (FELT) REFLECTED IN COUNTRY DEVELOPMENT ASSIS-

TANCE EFFORTS;
(2) HOW DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE, ESPECIALLY CONCESSIONAL UNCLASSIFIED

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ASSISTANCE, FOR INCREASING FOOD PRODUCTION AND IMPROVING NUTRITION IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES CAN BE INCREASED AND USED MORE EFFECTIVELY, ESPECIALLY FOR COUNTRIES WITH THE MOST SERIOUS FOOD AND NUTRITION PROBLEMS;

(3) CRITICAL IMPEDIMENTS TO (DOING SO) ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVES IN 1 AND 2 ABOVE, BOTH WITHIN THE BILATERAL ASSISTANCE COMMUNITY AND IN DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE RELATIONSHIPS WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

((4) HOW GREATER AMOUNTS OF CONCESSIONAL ASSISTANCE CAN BE PROVIDED TO COUNTRIES WITH MOST SERIOUS FOOD AND NUTRITION PROBLEMS)

(B) THAT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (, MEMBERS OF COUNCIL, AND OTHER INTERESTED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES) FORM THROUGH EXISTING FORA SUCH AS UN REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS (THREE REGIONAL) WORKING PARTIES OF DEVELOPMENT EXPERTS (FOR AFRICA, ASIA AND LATIN AMERICA)TO ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING ISSUES: :

(1) HOW PRIORITY FOR INCREASING ... AND THE MOST CRITICAL IMPEDIMENTS TO DOING SO CAN BE OVERCOME BOTH WITHIN ...

((4) HOW DEVELOPING COUNTRIES CAN MORE EFFECTIVELY BRING NATIONAL PRIORITIES FOR FOOD AND NUTRITION TO THE ATTENTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY)(COMMENT: IT IS NOT

CLEAR WHAT THIS RECOMMENDATION MEANS.)

(C) THAT MAJOR INTERNATIONAL LENDING INSTITUTIONS ...
ADDRESS THESE SAME ISSUES IN AN APPROPRIATE FORUM AND
ASK NEW...

(D) THAT THESE GROUPS BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF THE WFP
(THROUGH A SPECIAL CONFERENCE ARRANGED BY THE COUNCIL IN
FEBRUARY 1979) THE MAJOR ISSUES WHICH IN THEIR VIEW NEED
TO BE RECONCILED, SO THAT THE COUNCIL MAY CONSIDER THEM IN
ITS 1979 SESSION.

((E) THAT THE COUNCIL'S BUREAU, ... AND THE RESULTS
BROUGHT MOST EFFECTIVELY BEFORE THE COUNCIL.) ...
THE COUNCIL THEREFORE RECOMMENDS THAT:

(F) SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH THESE GLOBAL AND REGIONAL UNDER-
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TAKINGS ... TO SEEK COOPERATION OF (A COMPARABLE NUMBER
OF) INTERESTED DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL ...

- (1) BASIC DIMENSIONS OF A MINIMUM ADEQUATE FOOD AND
NUTRITION STRATEGY FOR THE COUNTRY;
- (2) POLICY, INSTITUTIONAL AND STRUCTURAL REFORMS REQUIRED;
- (3) IDENTIFICATION OF PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS CONSISTENT WITH
THIS STRATEGY WHICH THE PARTICIPANTS AGREE WARRANT IM-
MEDIATE SUPPORT, AND THOSE WHICH REQUIRE FURTHER PREPARA-
TION. (COMMENT: THIS COMBINES 2-3).
- ((4) PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS WHICH INVOLVE RECONCILIATION OF
POLICY ISSUES AND HOW THIS COULD BE DONE; AND)
- ((5) ADDITIONAL AREAS, IF ANY, IN WHICH PROJECTS AND
PROGRAMS ARE LACKING AND NECESSARY ACTIONS NEEDED TO
PREPARE THEM.) ...

II. IMPROVING NUTRITION

THE COUNCIL RECOGNIZES THAT THE BASIC WAY TO IMPROVE
NUTRITION IS TO INCREASE FOOD PRODUCTION AND (INSURE THAT
THIS INCREASE IS USED TO FEED) IMPROVE ITS DISTRIBUTION
TO THOSE MOST IN NEED. ...

THE COUNCIL THEREFORE RECOMMENDS: ...

((B) THAT THE UN SYSTEM MAKE ERADICATION OF HUNGER AND
MALNUTRITION A MAJOR OBJECTIVE OF THE NEXT INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY AND INTRODUCE SPECIFIC NUTRITION-
RELATED GOALS INTO THAT STRATEGY;) ...

(D) THAT (THE DAC) DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, IN SUPPORT OF THIS
EFFORT, INDICATE THE TYPES OF HUNGER-ORIENTED NUTRITION
ACTION (ITS MEMBERS) THEY ARE PREPARED TO SUPPORT, ...
AND INDICATE THE EXTENT TO WHICH (DAC COUNTRIES) THEY ARE

.-. - -

III. FOOD SECURITY ...

((C) (3) ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIFIC MEASURES TO FINANCE A
LARGE PROPORTION OF THE COST OF MAINTAINING SUCH RESERVES
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IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.)

IV. FOOD AID ...

V. INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY RESERVE ...

(A) THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLVE THAT THE INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY RESERVE OF 500,000 TONS BE ESTABLISHED AS A CONTINUING RESERVE (AVAILABLE TO WFP TO BE REPLENISHED ON AN ANNUAL BASIS), WITH PERIODIC REPLENISHMENT DETERMINED BY THE COMMITTEE ON FOOD AID POLICIES AND PROGRAMS OF THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM; ...

(B) THAT COUNTRIES INDICATE THEIR (ANNUAL) CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE EMERGENCY RESERVE FOR MORE THAN ONE YEAR IN ADVANCE, IF POSSIBLE.

VI. TRADE AND SOLUTION OF FOOD PROBLEMS

(A) ... THROUGH ADJUSTMENTS IN TRADE POLICIES, AND THAT ALL OTHER DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ALSO REVIEW THEIR TRADE POLICIES WITH A VIEW TOWARD CONTRIBUTING TO THE SOLUTION OF FOOD PROBLEMS OF FOOD DEFICIT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

(B) THAT DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (ENGAGED IN THE GATT MTNS) TAKE FULLY INTO ACCOUNT ...

(C) THAT IN LIGHT OF COMMITMENTS UNDERTAKEN (PARTICIPANTS REAFFIRM THEIR DETERMINATION) TO ESTABLISH A COMMON FUND TO SERVE AS A KEY INSTRUMENT IN ATTAINING THE AGREED OBJECTIVES OF THE INTEGRATED PROGRAM FOR COMMODITIES AS EMBODIED IN UNCTAD RESOLUTION 93(IV), PARTICIPANTS CONTINUE THEIR EFFORTS TO FIND AN ACCEPTABLE BASIS FOR EARLY RESUMPTION OF THE NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE FOR A COMMON FUND, (WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE INTEGRATED PROGRAM FOR COMMODITIES AND THAT SUCH A FUND BE CREATED TO FACILITATE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMODITY AGREEMENTS AS AGREED TO IN RESOLUTION 93(IV) OF UNCTAD, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON FOODSTUFFS)

(E) (CONDEMNNS) THAT ALL COUNTRIES AVOID PROTECTIONIST ...

(F) (URGES) THAT DEVELOPED COUNTRY GOVERNMENTS (TO INCREASE)

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PROVIDE ADEQUATE FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL (AND POLITICAL) SUPPORT, TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, FOR ADJUSTMENT OF SECTORS...." END TEXT.

2. SECRETARIAT SHOULD BE INFORMED THAT REFERENCES TO DAC HAVE BEEN DELETED OUT OF CONCERN THAT OTHER COUNTRIES WHO ARE IN A POSITION TO ASSIST, E.G. EASTERN BLOC AND OPECARE

THEREBY RELIEVED OF RESPONSIBILITY. HOWEVER, US IS WILLING TO SUPPORT A LETTER FROM WFC PRESIDENT TO DAC AND OTHER APPROPRIATE ORGANIZATIONS INVITING THEM TO COMMENT ON ISSUES RAISED IN FOOD PRODUCTION AND NUTRITION RECOMMENDATIONS. CHRISTOPHER

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